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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
REVIEW OF MAINSTREAMING IN ORGANIZATIONS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166
on the role of the United Nations Development Fund
for Women in eliminating violence against women

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information regarding its activities to eliminate violence against women and girls and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. It also requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information, inter alia, on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The report of the Fund, as transmitted by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, is annexed to the present note.

* E/CN.6/1997/1.



Annex

Role of the United Nations Development Programme for Women
in eliminating violence against women

INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 50/166, the General Assembly welcomed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action agreed upon at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women which called for the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. In the same resolution, the Assembly recalled its resolutions 48/104, proclaiming the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and 48/107 in which it had reaffirmed the catalytic role that the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) had played in facilitating the efforts of Governments and non-governmental organizations to support innovative activities that directly benefited and empowered women. In its resolution 50/166, the Assembly also urged Governments to allocate adequate resources for activities related to the elimination of violence against women, including resources for the implementation of plans of action at all appropriate levels, as called for in paragraph 124 (p) of the Platform for Action.

2. The General Assembly, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 50/166, reiterated the Assembly's appreciation for the advocacy initiatives of UNIFEM, including its contribution to and participation in the follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 July 1993, in particular with respect to efforts to combat violence against women.

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 50/166, requested the Fund, as one of the operational bodies of the United Nations, to take into account the need to strengthen its activities to eliminate violence against women as part of system-wide efforts of the United Nations towards that goal, in accordance with the measures set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and focusing on activities, particularly at the national and community levels.

I. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN
IN THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

4. UNIFEM's role in the elimination of violence against women was described in a report submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session (E/CN.6/1996/11). During 1996-1997, while the establishment of the Trust Fund has been under way, UNIFEM has continued its work in the regions to facilitate initiatives to eliminate violence against women. Some of these efforts include the following:

(a) UNIFEM has provided support for the Council for Women's Rights of Brasilia in their preparation of a model campaign to eliminate violence against women;

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(b) Also in Brazil, UNIFEM has been developing a project that will train police officers on the effects of violence against women;

(c) UNIFEM has assisted the women's national machinery of Ecuador in the production and dissemination of information to popularize the contents of the new law on violence against women;

(d) In Senegal, UNIFEM has supported public awareness initiatives on violence against women, involving ministers, heads of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

II. STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE TRUST FUND

5. In March 1996, UNIFEM organized two initial consultations on the establishment and terms of reference of the Trust Fund. One consultation was with partners from non-governmental organizations who specialize in work to eradicate violence against women. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/166, the second consultation was organized at the request of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme in consultation with the Secretary-General. The consultation was held, as requested, with the competent United Nations organs and bodies, in particular with representatives from the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Centre for Human Rights, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund.

6. In these meetings, the terms of reference for the Trust Fund were developed. They specify that the Fund will support national, regional and international actions, including those taken by Governments and non-governmental organizations. The following types of activities will be undertaken: awareness-raising (for men, women and youth on the issue of violence against women, including efforts to work with the media and support efforts to expand public understanding, perception and definition of and responsibility for gender-based violence, its causes and consequences); capacity-building (building institutional capacity to respond to the effects of gender-based violence); legal literacy (ensuring women's awareness of their rights and how to exercise them); training (including training of governmental and non-governmental personnel to increase the capacity for provision of services to women who have experienced violence, policy development around gender-based violence, general public understanding of such violence and understanding of the issue among those responsible for policy implementation); action-related research; and innovative and catalytic support (for efforts geared towards the development of innovative approaches for the prevention and deterrence of violence against women).

7. The financial and organizational mechanisms for administering the Trust Fund have now been established at UNDP and UNIFEM. Contributions have been received from the Governments of Japan, the Republic of Korea and Denmark, and Italy has pledged a contribution. The pledges and actual monies received are now in excess of \$1 million.

8. UNIFEM staff in the field, a total of 11 regional programme advisers, have been gathering information from governmental and non-governmental organizations

working in the area of violence against women on the types of interventions they are planning in order to make significant progress towards the elimination of violence against women.

9. Project proposals for consideration under the Trust Fund from all the regions have begun to arrive at UNIFEM headquarters. A concerted effort to widely disseminate information about the existence of the Trust Fund to a broad constituency continues in order to elicit a significant number of innovative and representative projects. Review of the proposals already received for support from the Trust Fund is now under way.

10. UNIFEM will have selected and commenced funding of projects at the grass-roots, national regional and international levels by July 1997.

11. UNIFEM will engage in dialogue with its partners in the system, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, the Centre for Human Rights, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and the United Nations Children's Fund in order to ensure that its activities form part of the system-wide efforts of the United Nations to eliminate violence against women.

12. UNIFEM will also continue to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence, its causes and consequences, where appropriate.
